

FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 1999

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Appropriations be discharged from further consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 136) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 1999, and for other purposes, and that the House immediately consider and pass the joint resolution.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, and I do not intend to object, but I would appreciate if the gentleman under my reservation would explain what the understanding is in terms of the schedule for the consideration of the omnibus appropriation bill, that 77,132-page bill that we are supposed to be bringing up next week.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. I would be happy to give the gentleman my understanding of the schedule relating to the omnibus bill. Currently we are operating under a fourth continuing resolution which carries us until midnight tonight.

Our expectation is, though, that because we do have a deal between both houses and the White House on the vast bulk of the omnibus bill that it will take some time for our staff to assemble the extensive number of pages which comprise the bill. For that reason, and in order to allow all of the material to be gathered and processed so that we have a bill to be filed, the expectation is that that will take roughly the length of this weekend. The staff will engage in ongoing efforts to make sure that they do their job professionally and well and completely, so that by Monday they will be prepared to allow us to file the bill, we would expect to do that on or about noon of Monday, and it would be available for inspection, and the expectation is then to call Members back on Tuesday afternoon and have a vote on the omnibus bill at about 5 p.m.

So this continuing resolution would carry us through that period of time, make sure that the government does not close, make sure that all of the operations of government continue as they have over the last few weeks since the close of the last fiscal year and that they would continue through midnight Tuesday.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman.

Continuing under my reservation, Mr. Speaker, I will simply say that is also my understanding. That means that Members should be prepared, as I understand it, to vote on the legislation after 5 p.m. on Tuesday, and they would then be able to get out of town either that evening or the next morning for the duration.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Louisiana?

There was no objection.

The Clerk read the joint resolution, as follows:

H.J. RES. 136

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That section 106(c) of Public Law 105-240 is further amended by striking "October 16, 1998" and inserting in lieu thereof "October 20, 1998".

The SPEAKER. Without objection, the joint resolution is considered and passed.

There was no objection.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. The Chair will take 15 one-minutes on each side.

AMERICANS DESTINED TO REAP BENEFITS OF REPUBLICAN-LED CONGRESS

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, as we near the end of the 105th Congress, I believe the American people have a rendezvous with destiny, and that destiny is to regain their freedom from big bureaucracy and big government and go more toward local control.

Four years ago, the Republicans laid the foundation for a balanced Federal budget, real education reform, crime reduction, meaningful tax cuts, a strong military force, welfare reform, and a real commitment to saving Medicare and Social Security.

Four years ago, Republicans charted a path to give Americans a renewed faith in our system of government, in our push to give Americans more control in their lives. Our hardworking families, our children, our men and women who serve in our Nation's armed forces are destined to reap the benefits of a Republican-led Congress that has made a commitment to put an end to wasteful bureaucratic spending, to send Federal education dollars directly to schools and districts and into the classrooms for the benefit of educating children; a commitment to give hard-earned tax dollars back to America's hardworking families; and a commitment to make the strength of our national defense a priority once again.

Mr. Speaker, there is renewed hope for America and I am proud to be a part of this destiny of freedom.

LITANY OF NONACCOMPLISHMENTS OF A DO-NOTHING CONGRESS

(Mr. PALLONE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, let us not kid ourselves. The Republican leadership was not prepared to do anything that was really important or address any of the real issues that the American people cared about in this Congress.

Fortunately, we as Democrats were able to push them as part of this budget agreement to address a few things, most importantly to add 100,000 teachers in the elementary school classes, and also to make sure that the Social Security trust fund was not drained, if you will, for tax giveaways.

But there is a lot more to be done here and this do-nothing Congress, this Republican leadership leading this do-nothing Congress did not address managed care reform, did not address campaign finance reform, did nothing to deal with the severe problem of teenage smoking, did nothing really to deal with most of the education initiatives that the Democrats have put forward. Most importantly, they refused as part of this budget deal to deal with school modernization. We have classrooms, we have schools throughout the country that need repair, that need to be upgraded to deal with computers.

There are a lot of other education initiatives that were not addressed as part of this Congress. I am happy today we just joined with the President, we are happy that they added the 100,000 teachers and that that will be part of this budget deal. We are happy that the Social Security trust fund is still intact, but there is a lot more that needs to be done. Let us not kid ourselves by saying anything that this was nothing but a do-nothing Congress.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, OCTOBER 19, 1998

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at noon on Monday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADY of Texas). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

BUDGET BATTLE

(Mr. HEFLEY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, the current budget battle in Washington shows clearly how conservative Republicans and liberal Democrats disagree about the role of government.

Republicans think that the Federal Government is too big. Democrats think that it is not big enough.

Republicans have been pushing for tax cuts. The liberals are horrified at